

Message Text

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67

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-02

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03

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R 291453Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8539

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

UNCLAS LONDON 01456

BRUSSELS PASS ERDA

DEPT PASS ERDA, INTERNATIONAL DIVISION, NELSON SIEVERING

DEPT ALSO FOR OES

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAG

UA

GTECH UK ENRG

SUBJECT: DECREASE IN OIL USED IN UK ELECTRICITY GENERATION

1. IN ANSWER TO A PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS ON JANUARY 26, 1976, MR. ALEX EADIE, UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ENERGY, NOTED A SUBSTANTIAL DROP IN OIL CONSUMPTION (ESTIMATED) BY CEGB FOR ELECTRICITY GENERATION IN THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR, APRIL 1, 1975 TO TO MARCH 31, 1976, RELATIVE TO THE PREVIOUS FINANCIAL YEAR.

2. THE CENTRAL ELECTRICITY GENERATING BOARD PROVIDES UNCLASSIFIED

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MORE THAN 90 PERCENT OF THE ELECTRIC POWER USED IN THE

UNITED KINGDOM. MR. EADIE PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING DATA
ON COAL AND OIL CONSUMPTION BY CEGB.

COAL	
FINANCIAL	MILLION
YEAR	TONNES
71/72	62.2
72/73	62.6
73/74	63.4
74/75	64.5
75/76	66.9 (ESTIMATED)

OIL	
FINANCIAL	MILLION
YEAR	TONNES
71/72	13.2
72/73	14.8
73/74	13.8
74/75	13.3
75/76	9.2 (ESTIMATED)

IT IS ESTIMATED THAT OVER THE ABOVE PERIOD, NUCLEAR
PLANTS PROVIDED ABOUT TEN PERCENT AND HYDRO PLANTS
ABOUT TWO PERCENT OF THE CEGB BASE LOAD.

3. IN A RECENT SPEECH TO THE BRITISH NUCLEAR ENERGY
SOCIETY, MR. A. E. HAWKINS, THE CHAIRMAN OF CEGB GAVE
THE FOLLOWING ESTIMATE OF PRESENT CEGB GENERATION COSTS,
COVERING BOTH AMORTIZATION OF CAPITAL AND CURRENT OPERAT-
ING COSTS:

NUCLEAR	0.98 CENTS/KILOWATT HOUR
COAL	1.48 CENTS/KILOWATT HOUR
OIL	Z

PQAIP CENTS/KILOWATT HOUR

(CONVERSION RATE 2.05 CENTS EQUALS 1 PENNY.)

IN ADDITION MR. HAWKINS STATED THAT IN THE LAST QUARTER
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OF 1975, UK ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION WAS DOWN 11 PERCENT
RELATIVE TO THE SAME PERIOD IN 1974. THIS DRAMATIC
DECREASE CAN BE ATTRIBUTED TO TWO FACTORS: FIRST,
CONSUMER RESISTANCE TO DOUBLING OF THE PRICE OF ELEC-
TRICITY IN THE PAST TWO YEARS, AND SECOND, THE CURRENT
ECONOMIC RECESSION IN THE UK.

4. IT IS CLEAR FROM THE ABOVE DATA THAT CEGB IS MEETING

THE CHALLENGE OF DECLINING ELECTRICITY DEMAND BY SHUTTING
DOWN ITS OIL-FIRED STATIONS, SINCE THESE ARE CURRENTLY
THE MOST EXPENSIVE SOURCES OF ELECTRIC POWER.

SPIERS

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